

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PLENARY
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
THREAT REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C.



OPR: DTRA/SP-ACP (Advisory Committees and Programs Office)
DATE: March 15, 2012

TWENTY-SEVENTH THREAT REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLENARY

January 31-February 1, 2012

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**PENTAGON
ARLINGTON, VA**

Certified True and Correct.

APPROVED:

GARY HART
Chairman
Threat Reduction Advisory Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Department of Defense (DoD) Threat Reduction Advisory Committee (TRAC) Plenary session convened at the Pentagon Conference Center (PCC), Arlington, Virginia, January 31, 2012.

As previously announced in the Federal Register, DoD closed this meeting to the public, in accordance with Section 10(d), Federal Advisory Committee Act, and Public Law 92-463, as amended {5 U.S.C., Appendix, (1982)}. The meeting's subject matter involved Secret and Top Secret information directly related to national security issues. Access to such information is limited to personnel with appropriate security clearances and a specific "need to know". Disclosure of the DoD TRAC deliberations would have grave impact on U.S. National Security; therefore, all activities were withheld in the public interest. Appendices A and B list the meeting agenda and attendees.

The majority of the meeting was conducted at the Top Secret security classification level, with appropriate restrictions on recording devices and disposition of notes. This report provides the unclassified notes and proceedings of the briefings and members' discussion.

TRAC members attended the introductory session of USSTRATCOM's Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Global Synchronization Conference (GSC) 12-1. The event was sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in conjunction with STRATCOM's Center for CWMD (SCC-WMD) and opened January 31, 2012 in the National Geospatial Agency (NGA) facility on Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Denis McDonough gave the Key Note address via teleconference following a brief introduction by Mr. Andy Weber. Mr. McDonough's comments revolved around the Nuclear Security Summit and its successes in the global approach to nuclear security. Following the GSC 12-1 opening session, members travelled to the Pentagon for the 28th TRAC Plenary meeting.

Senator (retired) Gary Hart, Chairman of the Committee, opened the meeting and thanked the membership for their work leading up to the day's meeting. Mr. Weber, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Affairs (ASD-NCB), then introduced the issues for review during the current plenary session which he called the "Three Big Ideas": 1) Are Central Reference Laboratories (CRL's) effective or worth the investment? 2) Using lessons learned from Libya, how does the U.S. approach future threat reduction efforts? 3) How do we improve nuclear material accountability, and make the accounting of special nuclear material (SNM) more effective? He asked the Committee to think of these issues in the broader context of Homeland Security while not losing sight of developments in other geographic regions. Members received a series

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of briefings, both classified and unclassified, throughout the session to provide background going into deliberations.

TRAC members deliberated on the “Three Big Ideas” and the 27th plenary meeting concluded with an executive discussion presented to DoD senior leaders with a summary of discussion points from deliberations. During the Executive Discussion, the Chairman laid out a broad roadmap for TRAC throughout the coming year.

Ambassador Kenneth Fairfax, the U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan, offered some comments regarding science and technology cooperation with Kazakhstan noting that Kazakhstan is considered a world leader in nonproliferation, and is the first country with a signed Science and Technology agreement in Bioscience with the U.S. Following comments by Ambassador Fairfax, the Vice Chairman initiated discussion by framing the CRL question as a value-based assessment and asked the Committee to advise whether DoD should continue and expand this engagement or look for alternative concepts to encourage global threat reduction.

The Committee deferred discussion of CRLs noting that some members are preparing for a site visit to review the effectiveness of CRL’s in Central Asia. The members agreed to resume the discussion about the effectiveness and value of CRL’s during TRAC 28. This will allow for those TRAC members traveling to Kazakhstan and Georgia in February and March to share their feedback at the next TRAC Plenary.

Mr. Weber presented the issue of the future of threat reduction in the form of a case study in order to assess U.S. capability to assist foreign nations with threat reduction and WMD elimination, and discussed options and alternatives for cooperative and non-cooperative engagement. Mr. Ken Myers, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, briefed the members of the Committee regarding his agency’s U.S. threat reduction efforts, past successes and ongoing endeavors with particular emphasis on cooperative efforts.

The TRAC discussed what the standards are in developing a comprehensive threat reduction strategy for the future. The members also discussed how CWMD capabilities will affect state or regional situations, as well as their impact to and from domestic interests, military consequences and future relations using lessons learned from Libya and other threat reduction successes. Consensus among members was that TRAC can best contribute in this area by developing a framework for Threat Reduction decision-making and future engagement. This will be a central effort for the subsequent plenary meeting in April.

With regard to the question of improving accountability of Special Nuclear Material, the Committee felt unsure of the end goal or intent of the question. The topic prompted a few questions from the members including what the appropriate roles for everyone

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involved are, whether those roles are already defined, and DoD's role overall vice the whole-of-government concept. The Committee agreed to discuss the issue further, once it is clearly defined and understood by its members.

The TRAC presented the results of deliberations during an Executive Outbrief to DoD senior leaders including Mr. Miller, USD (I); Mr. Kendall, USD (AT&L); and Mr. Weber, ASD (NCB). The Committee reached consensus that it can best advise senior leaders by creating a framework of questions to ask and issues to discuss through the coming year with the goal of presenting a global Threat Reduction engagement methodology. Members suggested a follow-on tabletop exercise (TTX) to focus in on the Threat Reduction case study and identify the various roles and responsibilities of DoD and interagency actors to provide a baseline for the decision-making framework. The Committee also reached consensus that the nuclear accountability question needs more clarity, or a mission statement, in order to provide any advice. TRAC will receive additional information regarding this issue at the coming plenary session in April 2012.

The Committee adjourned at 1300, February 1, 2012.